

Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force Meeting Minutes



Location: Erie County Fire Academy
Date: Tuesday, 7 Feb 2017
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Attendees: John Gaeddert, Dan Adamczyk, Katharine McEvoy, Barbara Howard, Sue Boyle, Robin Ebling, Mark Bucsek, Jackie Sullivan, Debi Cleary, Diane DiStefano, Deb Smith, Lynn Kaczmarowski, Nikole Stevens

Agenda items

1. (Follow-up) The meeting minutes from Dec 2016 and January 2017 must be posted on the Web site.
 - a. Once minutes are posted (Dec, Jan, and now Feb) the workgroup should review them in order to approve the minutes.
2. Deb is asking: should the Mission Statement and the goals of this workgroup be re-assessed? This can be discussed in March.
3. The workgroup is recruiting people for the various committees:
 - a. Event Planning
 - b. Lobbying
 - c. Grief Support
 - d. Education
4. Narcan Trainings: More people are interested in attending Train-the-Trainer events!
 - a. Sue Boyle (a consultant for WNY United) is doing training on Monday, Feb 13th at the Ormsby Center in East Aurora. The audience is a group of approximately 31 students for EMT and legal careers.
5. Update on Family Support Group meetings:
 - a. Ongoing group at Stutzmann is going well
 - b. Efforts underway to start a second group in Hamburg
6. Crisis Services Hotline:
 - a. As of Feb 6th (the quarterly meeting) there have been 1,417 calls
 - b. "warm hand-offs" are going well
 - c. The workgroup is still interested in seeing a copy of the screening tool used on the hotline
 - d. Deb Smith's ultimate desire for the hotline is that anyone who calls ends up receiving a "product or service" or other outcome, not "just one more number to call".
7. Many of the REAP Angels feel under-utilized, and are looking to get more involved.
8. The workgroup needs entries for the "Personal Story Library" (the one-page laminated sheets) for Black Balloon Day.
9. Wall of Remembrance: Being created by the County (John is doing design, and the county can print it on foam board.) The layout isn't finalized yet, but it will feature photos of loved ones and brief text.

- a. We have approximately 36 personal profiles from the Buffalo News article that ran in 2016. More profiles/updated profiles will help.
 - b. We need a standard format for the profiles. Workgroup members have settled on first name (no last name or middle initial) and age at death.
10. Black Balloon Day: Monday, March 6th at 6 PM.
- a. West Side Youth Coalition (WSYC) is expected to donate balloons, helium, and string.
 - b. Dan has offered to donate glow sticks (the plan is to cut them open, and the contents dripped on the balloons in order to illuminate them).
11. OASAS Patient Advocacy now has an active web site (OASAS Patient Advocacy Services, www.oasas.ny.gov/PA/index.cfm). Their goals (from the site): “Patient Advocacy (PA) promotes high-quality care in OASAS-certified programs by protecting patient rights and ensuring that services are delivered consistent with regulations and expected standards. PA helps people in treatment, or their families, by answering questions and addressing problems that cannot be resolved by programs. PA also advises professionals about issues concerning patient rights, treatment services and accepted standards.”
12. The contact list for the workgroup is being updated (forms were passed out and completed).
13. In order to cut into fentanyl trafficking, the workgroup has a letter-writing campaign (to local and state lawmakers) to criminalize possession of the various fentanyl analogues on the local level.
14. There is a presentation at Evergreen Health, geared towards treatment providers, on Thursday, February 16 at 10 AM. (EC DOH will be tabling at that event.)
15. “Pastoral Response II” is taking place on Saturday, April 29th from 8:30 to 11:45 AM at the John Paul II church in Lake View. (The work group would like to have the Wall of Remembrance on site.)
16. There have been many heroin/fentanyl arrests recently; as individual trials progress, there may be more opportunities for workgroup members to make court appearances in the future.
17. “Opiate Court” is not up and running yet; apparently there are logistical challenges.
18. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 7 (the day after Black Balloon Day).

Action items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
List of local police departments that are/are not participating	John Gaeddert, Cheryll Moore		Ongoing
Determine “photo size and character count” for small ornament tags	John Gaeddert		ongoing